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TO:

Department of State

INFO:

Amembassy MONTEVIDEO

FROM:

Amembassy BRASILIA

DATE: Apr. 25, 1975

E.O. 11652:

N/A TAGS:

PBOR, BR, UY

SUBJECT:

Brazil-Uruguay Boundary

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The following information has been provided informally by a Brazilian Foreign Ministry official on the questions raised in the referenced airgram:

The Treaty of Boundaries between Brazil and Uruguay of October 12, 1851 clearly establishes that the "Isla Brasileira" is under the sovereignty of Brazil. There are pillars on the island indicating that it belongs to Brazil, and until 1974, when Uruguay published a map showing it as an area in dispute, all maps showed the "Isla Brasileira" as being part of the Brazilian territory. The Brazilian position is, therefore, that the provisions of the 1851 treaty prevail, since the treaty is still in force. As a consequence, Brazil has not taken official cognizance of the April 7, 1961 treaty between Argentina and Uruguay, in which Uruguay made a reservation regarding the ownership of the island.

Concerning the Arroyo de La Invernada (Arroio Invernada) river, the same official stated that the area was demarcated over a century ago and delineated (caracterizada) in 1930. A map published by Uruguay in 1974, however, shows that river sector as an area in dispute. Brazil was surprised that only now has Uruguay decided to raise the question. No official approach, however, has been made to Brazil by Uruguay on the matter.

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Regarding the Arroyo del Chuy (Arroio Chui), the same official admitted that there is a small problem to be resolved as a UNCLASSIFICATION

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result of occasional shifts which have occurred in the course of the river. In order to resolve the problem, the two countries are currently studying the possibility of building some water retention mechanism in the area, designed to avoid the repetition of the phenomenon.

No other disputes seem to exist in the area, the official said.



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